

***Unveils comprehensive plan to return country to fiscal discipline***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) unveiled a comprehensive package of bills designed to put our country back on a path of fiscal responsibility.

“Our nation’s debt currently stands at more than \$13 trillion,” Wilson said. “I share the concerns that many Americans have about our country’s financial future. With escalating spending and a growing national debt, there is a legitimate concern about how we begin to correct our economic course. As a Blue Dog Democrat, I have always taken tackling our debt very seriously and that’s why I’m announcing my three pronged approach to tackling the debt.”

Each of the bills Wilson is championing fits in one of three categories: enacting common sense spending, trimming the fat or chipping away at the debt.

“Economic experts from across the country have weighed in with suggestions and solutions, and their opinions should be heard and considered. But, as I’ve often found since coming to Congress, sometimes the best ideas come from home. Working families know how to manage their finances in tough economic times. I believe that the federal government should follow some of those same principles and make common sense spending decisions, trim the fat from the federal budget, and finally start to chip away at the expanding debt.”

Wilson’s comprehensive package of legislation includes 10 bills that he is either writing and will shortly introduce or he is co-sponsoring. Wilson’s legislative plan to tackle the debt follows:

**ENACTING COMMON SENSE SPENDING**

1. Wilson is a COSPONSOR of H.R. 2116, the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, which was signed into law on February 13, 2010. In short, if Congress wants to spend money on a new program or extend previous spending measures, this legislation requires that it is “paid for”. This will help limit the size of deficits and reduce further additions to the national debt. Under the PAYGO law, there are exceptions for emergency spending and certain other limited spending categories.

2. Wilson is a COSPONSOR of H.R. 2142, the Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act. This bill would require that each federal agency complete an annual assessment of its existing programs to determine the effectiveness of said programs. Agencies would be directed to develop improvement plans to address any programs that are not meeting established goals or that have demonstrated poor performance. Congress would also be able to use the findings to more clearly identify programs that are not working and that should no longer be funded.

3. Wilson is a COSPONSOR of H.J. Res 78, the Balanced Budget Amendment. This would amend the Constitution to say that the President and the Congress must balance our national budget each year. In short, this amendment would prohibit federal outlays from exceeding total receipts starting in 2020. Many states, including Ohio, already have balanced budget

procedures in place for their annual state-level budgeting process.

#### **TRIMMING THE FAT**

1. Wilson is the LEAD SPONSOR of an upcoming bill to eliminate the Public Telecommunications Facilities Grant Program. In FY 2010, this program received \$18M in federal funds. Once all television signals were converted to digital in June 2009, this grant program was no longer needed as it pertained to analog service facilities. President Obama zeroed out this program in his FY2011 budget proposal, but it is unlikely that Congress will pass a budget resolution this year which could result in the program continuing to be funded. Congressman Wilson is proactively making sure that a defunct program will not receive funding or become a place holder for other funding.

2. Wilson is a LEAD SPONSOR of an upcoming bill that would establish a Sunset Commission. This legislation would require that an independent, bipartisan commission be established to review federal programs and make recommendations for those that should be eliminated after their original purpose has been outlived. Congress would be required to vote on the commission's recommendations and thus have a say in whether or not programs continue to have relevance and deserve to be funded.

3. Wilson is a COSPONSOR of H.R. 3393, the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act, which was passed by the U.S. House on April 28, 2010. This bill holds our government accountable for wasteful payments and ensures that federal agencies stop making payment errors while allowing them to recover overpayments. If enacted, this could save our country \$98 billion annually.

4. Wilson is a COSPONSOR of H.R.4871, the Spending Reduction Act, which will cut non-security discretionary spending by 2% for each of the next 3 years and freeze it for the subsequent 2 years. This proposal would save the American taxpayers over \$400 billion, significantly more than the \$250 billion savings projected by President Obama's proposed 3-year non-security freeze.

#### **CHIPPING AWAY AT THE DEBT**

1. Wilson is the LEAD SPONSOR of an upcoming bill called "Check the Debt". This bill will create a box on tax forms that will allow all tax payers to "check the box" to contribute \$3 to the national debt. The Federal Government already collects non-solicited donations to pay down the national debt through the Office of Public Debt in the Treasury Department. By including a "check the debt" box on tax forms (similar to the "public financing of campaigns" box already in place), all Americans can contribute to the betterment of our country's fiscal health.

2. Wilson is a COSPONSOR of H.R. 5008, the Targeted Deficit Reduction Act of 2010, which would require Congress to use procedural strategies to reduce the deficit each year during the Budget process. In order to meet 5 and 10 year deficit and debt targets set by the legislation, continuous annual savings will need to be achieved. Each year, the House Budget Committee would be required to provide instructions for deficit reduction and each committee of jurisdiction

would have to submit deficit-reducing legislation within 45 days. The estimated savings could be \$350 billion over 5 years.

3. Wilson is a COSPONSOR of H.R. 1557, the Securing America's Future Economy Commission Act, which asks for a bipartisan fiscal commission to make recommendations on how to reduce our debt. In February, President Obama used an Executive Order to create the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility which began meeting in April and should have its report to Congress by December. Leading the Commission's efforts are co-chairs Erskine Bowles of North Carolina and former Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming.

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